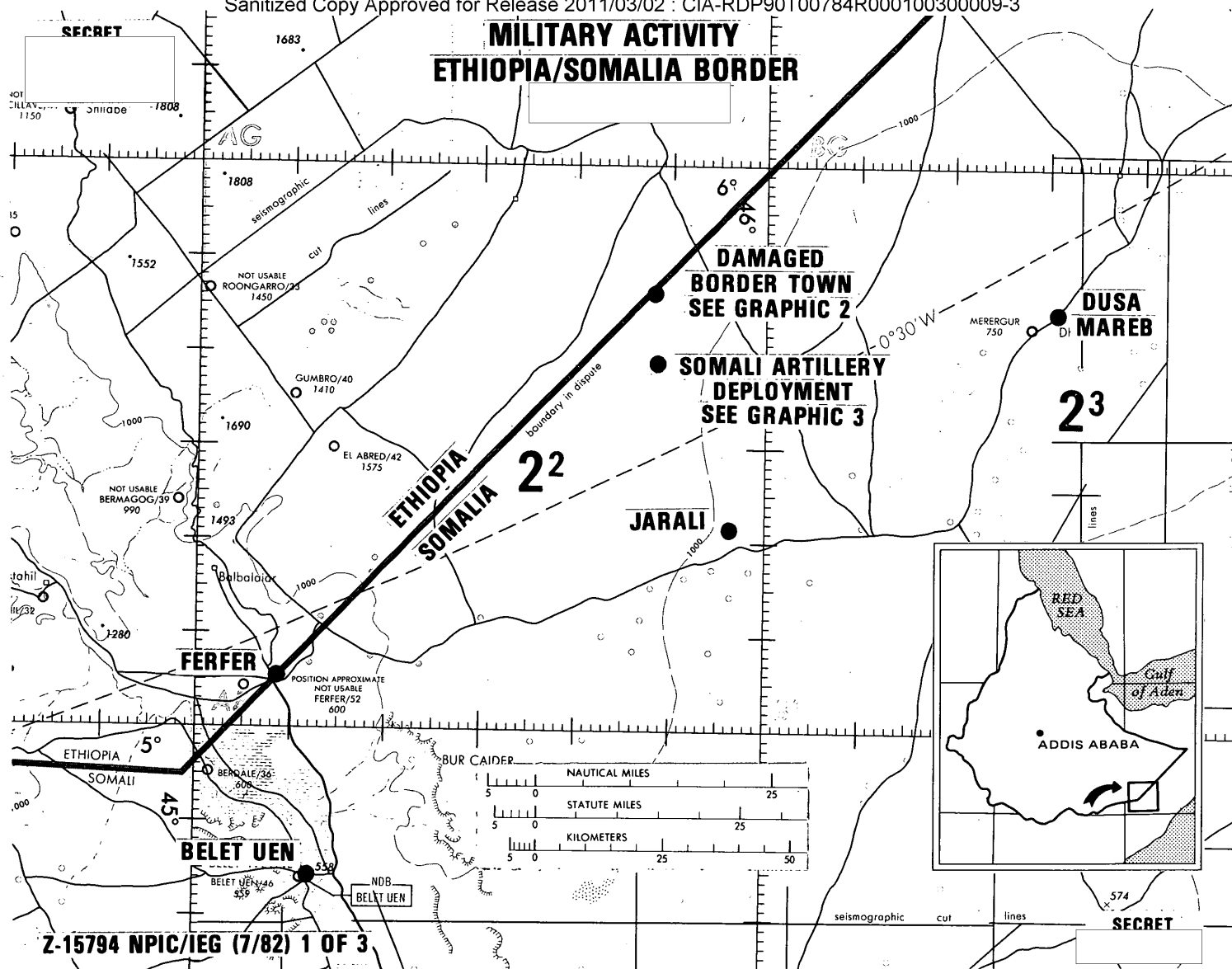


MILITARY ACTIVITY

ETHIOPIA/SOMALIA BORDER

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ROUTING			
TO:	NAME AND ADDRESS	DATE	INITIALS
1			
2			
3			
4			
	ACTION	DIRECT REPLY	PREPARE REPLY
	APPROVAL	DISPATCH	RECOMMENDATION
	COMMENT	FILE	RETURN
	CONCURRENCE	INFORMATION	SIGNATURE
REMARKS:			
FROM: NAME, ADDRESS, AND PHONE NO.			DATE

SECRET

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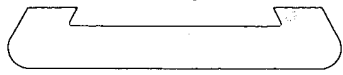
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NPIC/IEG (7/82)

30 JULY 1982

**MILITARY ACTIVITY
ETHIOPIA-SOMALIA BORDER**

25X1

1. (S/D) SIGNIFICANCE: A MILITARY FORCE FROM ETHIOPIA HAS RECENTLY MOVED THROUGH A TOWN ON THE ETHIOPIA-SOMALIA BORDER AND ADVANCED AT LEAST 5 NM INTO SOMALIA.
2. (S/D) REMARKS: THIS TOWN, AT 05-46-04N 045-46-31E, IS APPROXIMATELY 45 NM WEST OF THE SOMALI TOWN OF DUSA MAREB AND MAY BE THE TOWN OF BALENBALE (GRAPHIC 1). RECENT COMBAT OPERATIONS BETWEEN SOMALI MILITARY FORCES AND MILITARY FORCES OF ETHIOPIA AND THE ETHIOPIAN-BACKED SOMALI DEMOCRATIC SALVATION FRONT (SDSF) HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN THE VICINITY OF BALENBALE. THE LACK OF ACCURATE MAPS OF THIS PORTION OF THE ETHIOPIA-SOMALIA BORDER PRECLUDES THE POSITIVE IDENTIFICATION OF THIS BORDER TOWN AS BALENBALE.

(S/D) APPROXIMATELY 30 PERCENT OF THE BUILDINGS WITHIN THE BORDER TOWN HAVE BEEN HEAVILY DAMAGED OR DESTROYED (GRAPHIC 2). TRACK ACTIVITY AND LINES OF RECENTLY CONSTRUCTED DEFENSIVE TRENCHES AND WEAPONS POSITIONS INDICATE THAT AFTER MOVING THROUGH THE BORDER TOWN, MILITARY FORCES ADVANCED AT LEAST 5 NM INTO SOMALIA. THE CURRENT STATUS OF MILITARY FORCES IN THIS AREA COULD NOT BE DETERMINED FROM AVAILABLE IMAGERY. NO GROUND FORCE WEAPONS OR EQUIPMENT WAS OBSERVED IN THE IMMEDIATE VICINITY OF THE DAMAGED TOWN OR WITHIN THE LINES OF DEFENSIVE TRENCHES SOUTH OF TOWN; HOWEVER, HEAVY TRUCKAGE EXISTS AROUND AND UNDER A NUMBER OF TREES WHICH COULD OBSCURE SOME EQUIPMENT. IF A MILITARY FORCE STILL OCCUPIES THIS AREA, IT IS PRIMARILY AN INFANTRY FORCE WITH NO SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF COMBAT EQUIPMENT SUCH AS TANKS, ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIERS, OR ARTILLERY PIECES.

(S/D) WITHIN SOMALIA, A SOMALI MILITARY FORCE WAS IDENTIFIED APPROXIMATELY 7 NM SOUTH OF THE DAMAGED BORDER TOWN. TWO FIELD ARTILLERY BATTERIES (ONE FOUR-GUN AND ONE SIX-GUN) WERE DEPLOYED ASTRIDE A ROAD AT 05-39-29N 045-47-44E FACING NORTH (GRAPHIC 3). THIS ROAD CONNECTS

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NPIC/IEG (7/82)

30 JULY 1982

THE BORDER TOWN WITH THE SOMALI TOWN OF JARALI (05-20-53N 045-56-13E) ON THE DUSA MAREB/BELET DEN HIGHWAY. TRUCKS WERE MOVING IN BOTH DIRECTIONS ALONG THE ROAD BETWEEN THE SOMALI ARTILLERY DEPLOYMENT AND JARALI; HOWEVER, NO UNUSUAL ACTIVITY OR BUILDUP OF FORCES WAS OBSERVED IN THE VICINITY OF JARALI. [REDACTED]

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3. (S) BE NONE, COORDINATES 05-46-04N 045-46-31E
05-39-29N 045-47-44E

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